

Big Sky Pathways Initiative

2010 - 2011



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*This presentation was developed through a
cooperative effort with T.J. Eyer
and the OPI CTE staff*

Webinar Topics

- What are *Big Sky Pathways*?
- What is the *Big Sky Pathways Initiative (BSPI)*?
- Why should I participate in the BSPI process?
- Who are the college partners?
- When and where will the meetings be held?
- How will my school be reimbursed for my sub, etc.?
- Frequently Asked Questions

What Are *Big Sky Pathways*?

- Montana's term for *Programs of Study*
- Based on the 16 Career Clusters and their 79 pathways
- In Montana, *Big Sky Pathways (BSPs)* refer to both the 16 cluster-level and 79 pathway-level programs of study.

Perkins IV Requirements

- Each secondary Perkins recipient must develop at least one POS with a postsecondary Perkins recipient and submit for approval. Postsecondary Perkins recipients include colleges of technology, community colleges, some tribal colleges, and Northern.
 - Incorporate and align secondary and postsecondary education
 - Include academic & CTE content in a coordinated, non-duplicative progression of courses
 - Offer the opportunity, where appropriate, for secondary students to acquire postsecondary credits
 - Lead to an industry-recognized credential or certificate at the postsecondary level, or an associate or baccalaureate degree

What is the *Big Sky Pathways Initiative?*

- Perkins resources allocated for regional development meetings
- College/high school partnerships formed for building Big Sky Pathways
 - specific to each high school
 - aligned with a specific program at a regional Perkins-eligible college
 - guided by OPI Specialist

College Partners and the *Big Sky Pathways Initiative*

- Colleges identified Big Sky Pathways; high schools invited to partner
- High Schools choose Big Sky Pathways at the college closest to them (up to 7 per school)
- *Example:*
 - An Eastern Montana high school chooses three BSPs:
 - Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources
 - Dawson CC
 - Construction
 - MSU-Billings COT
 - Culinary Arts
 - UM-Missoula COT (Only one offering)

Who Are the College Partners?

- Dawson Community College
- Flathead Valley Community College
- MSU-Billings COT
- MSU-Great Falls COT
- MSU-Northern
- Montana Tech COT
- UM-Helena COT
- UM-Missoula COT

Why Should I Participate in the BSPI Process?

- One *BSP Request for Approval* required for all Perkins high schools (*Capacity for schools to participate in 7 BSPs*)
- Professional development opportunity
- Strengthen partnerships with counselors and postsecondary faculty
- Find out about new features of MCIS (Montana Career Information System)
- Guidance from OPI Specialist
- ***Good for students***—college and career readiness, positive impact on graduation rates, articulated curriculum, etc.

Mapping of Courses (grades 9-14)

- Recommended academic, CTE, and elective courses (College and Career Ready!)
- State and local graduation requirements
- Non-duplicative sequence
- Dual enrollment, on-line, and CTE START (STatewide ARTiculation) opportunities
- Identification of CTSOs and other relevant student organizations

Assurances . . .

- Aligned with state/industry standards
- Linked with a web-based guidance delivery system, e.g., MCIS
- Aligned with a Montana Perkins college program
- Endorsed by local Advisory Committee
- Endorsed by Principal
- Endorsed by college partner

Who Are the College Partners?

- Dawson Community College
- Flathead Valley Community College
- MSU-Billings COT
- MSU-Great Falls COT
- MSU-Northern
- Montana Tech COT
- UM-Helena COT
- UM-Missoula COT

Agriculture and Natural Resources

- Dawson Community College
- Flathead Valley Community College
- MSU-Great Falls COT
- MSU-Northern

*Co-facilitated by respective college faculty and
OPI Specialist Brad King*

Family and Consumer Sciences

- Early Childhood Education
 - Dawson Community College
 - Flathead Valley Community College
- Culinary Arts
 - UM-Missoula COT
- Human Services
 - Flathead Valley Community College
- Interior Design
 - MSU-Great Falls COT

*Co-facilitated by respective college faculty and
OPI Specialist Megan Anderson*

Business

Business Management, Administration & Marketing

- Dawson Community College
- Flathead Valley Community College
- MSU-Billings COT
- MSU-Great Falls COT
- MSU-Northern
- Montana Tech COT
- UM-Helena COT
- UM-Missoula COT

*Co-facilitated by respective college faculty and
OPI Specialist Eric Swenson*

More Business

Finance/Accounting

- Flathead Valley Community College
- MSU-Billings COT
- MSU-Great Falls COT
- Montana Tech COT
- UM-Helena COT

Information Technology

- Flathead Valley Community College
- MSU-Billings COT
- MSU-Great Falls COT
- MSU-Northern
- Montana Tech COT
- UM-Helena COT
- UM-Missoula COT

*Co-facilitated by respective college faculty and
OPI Specialist Eric Swenson*

Industrial Tech Ed

Construction

- Flathead Valley Community College
- MSU-Billings COT
- MSU-Great Falls COT
- MSU-Northern
- Montana Tech COT
- UM-Helena COT
- UM-Missoula COT

Manufacturing (Welding)

- Dawson Community College
- Flathead Valley Community College
- MSU-Billings COT
- MSU-Great Falls COT
- MSU-Northern
- Montana Tech COT
- UM-Helena COT
- UM-Missoula COT

*Co-facilitated by respective college faculty and
OPI Specialist Don Michalsky*

- **Architecture/Drafting**
 - MSU-Northern
- **Engineering Tech**
 - Dawson Community College
 - MSU-Northern
- **Automotive**
 - MSU-Billings COT
 - MSU-Great Falls COT
 - MSU-Northern
 - Montana Tech COT

*Co-facilitated by respective college faculty and
OPI Specialist Don Michalsky*

Health Science

- Flathead Valley Community College
- MSU-Billings COT
- MSU-Great Falls COT
- Montana Tech COT
- UM-Helena COT
- UM-Missoula COT

*Co-facilitated by respective college faculty and
OPI Specialist Renee Harris*

BSPI Process: Role of Colleges

- Each participating college is a consortium lead
 - Membership of each consortium is made up of high schools by BSP choice. A high school may belong to more than one consortium based on choices.
 - Colleges coordinate two meetings and provide content-specific faculty leadership.
 - Colleges process all reimbursements.

When and Where?

- College partner will contact high schools about times and dates of BSP development meetings.
- If your school selected four BSPs, then you will have four different sets of meetings.
- College partner will schedule 4-hour meetings at college campus. Lunch provided by college.
- First BSP development meetings for high schools begin in November.

BSPI Process: Role of High Schools

- High schools must send to the selected BSP development meetings:
 - One content-specific CTE teacher to two BSP development meetings
 - One guidance counselor required to attend at least first development meeting of one of the BSPs.
 - Recommendation: All counselors should attend *at least one* BSP development meeting.
- Others welcome
 - Administrators
 - Advisory committee members
 - Additional teachers and counselors

BSP Development Meeting One

approximately 4 hours

- Co-facilitated by OPI Specialist and College faculty
- Topics
 - Overview of Big Sky Pathways
 - Request for Approval and Assurances
 - 10 Framework Components
 - Relevant standards
 - Career Clusters' Essential Knowledge and Skills
 - Role of local Advisory Committees
 - Postsecondary credit opportunities
 - MCIS and Big Sky Pathways MAPs (Montana Achievement Plans)
 - Dialogue/sharing among faculty and teachers

Prior to BSP

Development Meeting Two

- Using tools provided in development meeting one, craft a Big Sky Pathway for own high school with:
 - *Counselor(s)*
 - *Advisory committee*
 - *Other high school faculty*
- If needed, consult with college faculty partner

BSP Development Meeting Two

approximately 4 hours

- Each school shares local Big Sky Pathway development process and proposal with peers and college faculty
- BSP is uploaded into MCIS; technical assistance provided

How Will My High School Be Reimbursed?

- BSPI will be pay mileage for **one** vehicle and cost for **one** substitute teacher.
 - Exception: If counselor has teaching responsibilities and requires a substitute, then sub expenses for counselor will be reimbursed.
- BSPI will pay for **one** night prior to meeting at motel/hotel (at state rate) for distances more than 125 miles.
- High School submits **one** reimbursement request per meeting to college. College reimburses high school; high school reimburses staff.

Timeline

- *September 20*—BSP selections due to OPI
- *October 1*—Colleges notified of high school partners by BSP
- *By October 15* —Colleges meet with OPI and create a schedule
- *November*—First BSPI meetings launched
- *February 15* —One BSP due to OPI/OCHE

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: *In previous years we have been asked to simply check a box to indicate we have one Big Sky Pathway. Now we are required to submit a Request for Approval with Assurances. WHY?*

A: This spring OPI/OCHE received guidance from the Office of Vocational and Adult Education that we are required to approve each Perkins recipient's program(s) of study (*Big Sky Pathways*).

Q: *If only one Big Sky Pathway is required for Perkins funding, why am I given the option to sign up for seven?*

A: Because most high schools have more than one CTE program, we want to involve as many CTE instructors as possible.

Remember that your travel and sub costs will be reimbursed, so there is no cost to your district to participate. As we looked at our funding capacity, we can assure funding for all Montana high schools to participate in seven.

Q: *This looks like the old Tech Prep model where we articulated courses regionally. I thought we were doing statewide course articulations.*

A: The Big Sky Pathway Initiative is not about course-to-course articulations. Although the articulation of CTE courses (now called START) will be discussed, the scope of the Big Sky Pathways Initiative is much greater.

Q: *There are several teachers in my department who would like to attend the Big Sky Development meetings. May more than one CTE teacher attend?*

A: Yes! But the Big Sky Pathways Initiative will only reimburse you for the expenses of one teacher per BSP. You may use other Perkins funds, e.g., Professional Development, to pay for the expenses of the additional teachers.

Q: *Why do I have to partner with the college closest to my high school?*

A: One of the purposes of the Big Sky Pathways Initiative is to foster regional high school/college faculty relationships that may be sustained.

Also, it would not be fiscally responsible to use public funds for unnecessary travel expenses.

Q: *What happens if no one from my high school wants to participate in the Big Sky Pathways Initiative meetings?*

A: Even if you choose not to participate, you are still required to submit one *Big Sky Pathway Request for Approval with Assurances* to OPI by June of 2011 to maintain your Perkins funding.

The technical assistance provided through the Big Sky Pathways Initiative will make the process much easier for you.

Do you have questions?

All questions submitted through this presentation will be answered and posted on OPI's CTE web page:

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/CTAE/CTE.html>

